

Ø-Beat

Volume 55, Number 1

January 2005

Christmas Party – December 10th

Can you believe it's January already? And that our annual Christmas party has come and gone again? It was held at the Springs City Church, and apparently all who attended had a good time. Some of Santa's elves must have been present, as they provided the editor with a few pictures. If you couldn't make it this year, perhaps you'll be able to next year.



Kate WB9BAH busy with paperwork.



Enjoying some good eats at the Christmas party.

Board of Directors

Pres.	Rick Brown KØSU	k0su@adelphia.net	531-9423
VP	Christopher Taylor NC6T	nc6t@arrl.net	260-8081
Sec.	John Wishart KCØJFH	kc0jfh@arrl.net	481-2439
Treas.	Kate Muniz WB9BAH*	wb9bah@elpasotel.net	
ZB Ed.	Dennis Major NØABC	n0abc@arrl.net	531-6774
Dir.	Al Penney VO1NO*		
Dir.	Pat Kelly KCØMIR*	pwkellysr@juno.com	591-0948
Dir.	Dennis Major NØABC *	n0abc@arrl.net	531-6774
Dir.	Mike Anderson WV7T		

* In final year of 2-year term.

PPRAA Meeting Information

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly at 7 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management, 305 S. Union Blvd, in the Health Dept. auditorium. For a map, please visit our web site at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/> or contact any of the board members for more information.

Amateur Radio License Exam Information

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Volunteer Examiner (VE) team holds testing sessions every other month, in even-numbered months. They're held on the 2nd Saturday of these months at 9 am. For further details and for a list of what to bring, contact Erik Mugele KGØXE or Dennis Major NØABC or visit our web site.

PPRAA Simplex Net

Don't forget about the PPRAA Simplex Net on Thursday nights at 7 pm! Jim Harris ABØUK and Pat Kelly KCØMIR have been doing a bang-up job in keeping the net going from week to week. Join everyone for a good time, find out the latest, test out your ability to copy other stations via simplex, and listen to the ARRL Audio News! The frequency is 146.58 MHz simplex and the backup frequency is 146.55 MHz, in case the primary frequency is busy.

PPRAA Is A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization

The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions or donations may be tax-deductible.

Committee Chairs / Points Of Contact

Auditing	Open
Asset	Mike Stansberry KØTER
E-Mail Refl.	John Wishart KCØJFH kc0jfh@arrl.net 481-2439
Field Day	Dan Scott KB0PPM
Swapfest	Open
Historian	Ron Deutsch NKØP
Interference	Bill Petty NØNJX
Membership	Les Borst KCØNC
Programs	Christopher Taylor NC6T nc6t@arrl.net 260-8081
Publicity	Christopher Taylor NC6T nc6t@arrl.net 260-8081
Public Service	Mike Stansberry KØTER
Tech. Ed.	Mike Anderson WV7T
VEC Liaison	Dennis Major NØABC
VE Contact	Erik Mugele KGØXE
Webmaster	Open
AMSAT Coord.	Tom McDaniel NØNTX
ARRL Awards Mgr.	Rick Brown KØSU
ARES Emerg Coord	Dean Haskins KAØPII
ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry KØTER
ARRL Section Mgr.	Jeff Ryan KØRM
CCARC Liaison	Kate Muniz WB9BAH
HamCon Chairman	Jerry VerDuft ADØA
RACES Officer	Les Borst KCØNC

PPRAA Web Site and E-Mail Reflector

PPRAA web site is at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/>
Stay on top of new or short-fused developments by subscribing to our e-mail reflector. Visit <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraanet> to subscribe. Thanks to John Wishart for maintaining the reflector.

Upcoming Club Programs

January: Homebrew Night – see article

February: TBA

Deadline for Next Ø-Beat Articles

The deadline for the February 2005 Ø-Beat is January 23. Send all submissions to the editor via e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person.

President's Message

I am happy to announce that Dan Scott, KB0PPM, has stepped forward to be the PPRAA Field Day Chair for 2005. Al, VO1NO, our Chair for the past two years, will continue to support Dan as long as possible. Even though snow is falling at my QTH as I write this, it isn't too early to think about Field Day. After our outstanding performance last year I hope that we can do even better this coming year.

Swapfest Meeting – Yet More Info

The first swapfest meeting was held on December 11th, just after the VE session. Several items were discussed, particularly the recruitment of volunteers to take on several very important jobs, including Tables, Publicity, Door Prizes, and of course Chairperson. It appears we have a volunteer for a “co-chair,” but I will wait until it is officially announced before publicizing it here.

We also discussed at great length the raffle prizes. So that we can continue to offer two or three valuable prizes rather than just one (bettering the odds!), we decided to go back to a Yaesu theme. Considering the possibility of another contribution, with Yaesu equipment, we are able to provide a good selection of prizes while keeping the costs under \$1,000.

Club Meeting Minutes

PPRAA Club Meeting Minutes 10 December 2004

There was no monthly meeting due to the Christmas party being held on this date. The editor was told that there was a motion made, and seconded, to allow the swapfest committee

to spend up to \$1,000 for the raffle prizes. A quick vote was held and the motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes

PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes December 2004

No board meeting this month.

January PPRAA Foxhunt

Planning is underway for the next PPRAA foxhunt. Tentative date is January 23, 2005.

HAM RADIO CLASSES for 2005

Dates: January 11th, 2005 to February 10th, 2005 (Tuesday and Thursday evenings) Time: 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM

Location : 305 S. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO. at the Office of Emergency Management, in the rear of the El Paso County Health department, bottom floor.

These classes will be open to anyone interested in becoming a ham radio operator and will include all the necessary theory to obtain an FCC Amateur Radio License. A test session will also be included as part of the class structure.

All materials needed to take the classes will be available at the class. The cost of the book is \$19.00 and will be available for purchase at the first class. Handouts will be given out free of charge. A \$14.00 exam fee will be charged to take the VE licensing examination.

Pre-registration is required by January 7th, 2005.

Contact: Frank McNally - KFØWF or Barbara McNally – NØBAM (719)596-6733 or at warm.fuzzy@bigfoot.com OR Linda Hedges - KBØRKW, (719) 683-7828 or at kb0rkw@juno.com

El Paso County RACES Activities



<http://www.qsl.net/epcraces/>

No report provided.

Pikes Peak ARES



<http://www.ppares.org/>

No report provided.

Volunteer Examiner Session

On December 11th, we held our VE session at the offices of The Rawhide Company. This worked out all right, but it was quite evident that we really need a classroom setting rather than conference rooms and their round or oval tables.

From 12 applicants, there were two new Extras and five new Technicians. Additionally, two CSCEs were granted: both for Element 3, and one also for Element 4. Those two will be trying again for the Element 1 code test in the near future.

Through the efforts of Tim Rader, KCØGBH, it appears we will be able to start using the Colorado Technical University facilities for our future VE sessions, starting in February. A little more coordination is necessary, but expect to see such an announcement in the very near future.

Within the past few weeks, the ARRL VEC announced that the exam fee went up effective 1/1/2005 to \$14.00. It had been \$12.00 for the past two years. This fee covers the taking of any one, two, three, or all four exam elements.

Upcoming Amateur Radio Events

Jan 15th: NCARC Winterfest. See story.

Feb 12th: PPRAA VE Testing, regularly held in even-numbered months. See above story.

Apr 2, 2005: Longmont ARC, Boulder County Fairgrounds.

UCCS ARC

A note from Barbara Treacy, KD5BUO:

We received great news that KUØC's request to UCCS for funding has been approved!

Although the funds have been approved, we do not yet have authorization from UCCS Facilities to put up our tower. We will be looking for the best source for purchasing equipment, and accepting any donations! We will soon send everyone a list of what we will need. In the meantime, we plan to put up a dipole and get the station on the air during the next month.

Many thanks to the person responsible for the approval of our request ... Dr. Jugal Kalita.

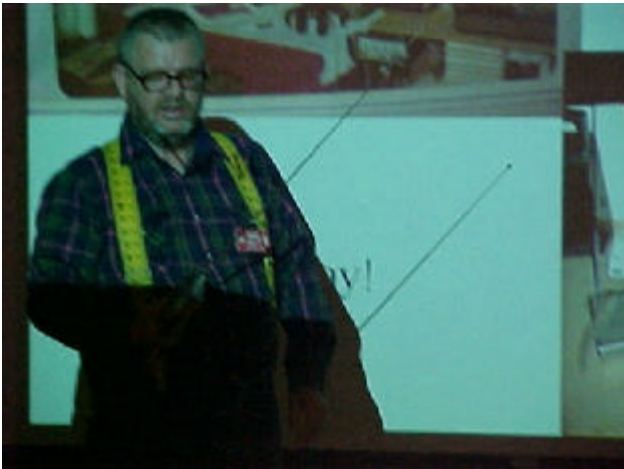
Also during December, Barbara hosted another meeting at UCCS for other prospective hams. Mike, WV7T gave a presentation (including Power Point!) showing many of the different facets of amateur radio. Here are a couple of pictures taken during that informational meeting:



One of the guests.



Mike, WV7T and Roger, NØVR discuss amateur radio with the group.



Mike, WV7T, giving presentation.

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Work DX? PPRAA can help with the OUTGOING QSL bureau!

ARRL affiliated-club stations may use the outgoing QSL bureau when submitting club QSL's by indicating the club name. In addition to sending club station QSL's through the outgoing bureau, affiliated clubs may also "pool" their club members' individual QSL cards to effect a significant savings. Each club member using this service must be an ARRL member.

I am the PPRAA QSL manager and would be happy to include members' QSLs with the

club's. I just need the QSLs, a copy of your label from a recent QST, and \$1.

Mike Anderson, WV7T

Work Them All in 2005

I am looking for operators who would like to help PPRAA achieve as many awards in 2005 as possible: DXCC, WAS, WAZ, WPX, to mention a few.

THIS IS NOT A CONTEST. Participating stations would coordinate with me, as operations would be under PPRAA's AFØS callsign. All that is needed is to let me know you are operating AFØS and send me log extracts. Make as many or as few contacts AT YOUR LEISURE. You don't have to send QSLs; I will take care of that (unless you want to). Everyone participating will get a personalized certificate at the January 2006 club meeting or by mail. I will list the statistics monthly in the Zero-Beat.

For more information or to let me know you'd like to participate just drop me an email at WV7T@ARRL.NET.

PPRAA Club Meeting Tech Talks

We're still looking for folks to give Tech Talks for about 5 minutes at each club meeting. If you've got an interesting topic to talk about for about 5 minutes, get with Rick Brown K0SU to schedule your night! Practically any topic is worthwhile.

January Program - Homebrew Night

In January it's your turn to scour your ham shack and bring to the club your latest creations from the world of homebrew! This annual

PPRAA tradition allows all interested club members to present their projects to the club for recognition and to share ideas with each other. All types of projects are welcome, from one-of-a-kind homebrews to kits you have built. Haul them all to the club meeting and share them with the club! Have something that just doesn't work the way it should? Bring it in too and let the PPRAA minds go to work on it!

Upcoming Fest

The Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club (NCARC) presents Winterfest 2005 on Saturday, January 15th, 8:00 a.m., at the Old Larimer County Fairgrounds, 700 S. Railroad, Loveland. Admission \$5, free for children under 12, tables \$5 including one admission. VEC exams at 10 a.m., prize drawing at noon, IRLP presentation by RMRL at 10 a.m. Prizes: Kenwood TM V7A, Heil Pro Set Plus, and Kenwood TH G71A.

Directions: on I-25 take exit 255. Go west on Colorado 402 past Hwy 287. Turn right on Roosevelt just past the railroad tracks and follow the road north to the Old Larimer County Fairgrounds, at the southwest corner of Barnes Park. Talk-in on 145.115 (-) 100 Hz, 146.520. For table reservations contact Willis Whatley, WA5VRL, (970) 407-6599.

2005 ARRL/VEC Test Fee Increase

Starting January 1, 2005, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions will increase from \$12 to \$14 for the year 2005.

ARRL VE teams may continue to retain up to \$6 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams' out-of-pocket examination expenses. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading his or her operating privileges.

The number of examinees has diminished in the past 24 months (in part we expect as a result of

the uncertainty of the pending restructuring proposals). As examinee attendance establishes our revenue, and the number of attendees has dropped-while at the same time our cost of doing business--and the expenses incurred by ARRL VEs and the ARRL VEC--continues to rise, only so many cost-cutting measures can be justified without cutting back significantly on services essential to our VE teams and our program.

While recent ARRL VEC cost cutting has included staff reduction, reduced printing and distribution charges of our VE training material and exam software (both having gone to ARRLWeb distribution only), and elimination of lesser used services, these steps still are not balancing the bottom line. Therefore an adjustment was needed in the 2005 test fee if we intended to maintain the basic levels of service that our VEs and VE teams have come to expect.

Applicants failing an exam at ARRL sessions where examiners permit retesting on the same exam element also, or those seeking grandfather-credit upgrades without being required to take an exam, must also submit a fee of \$14 (2005).

PPFMA Net Moving Time

The Pikes Peak FM Association is moving the time of its Sunday night net from 9 pm to the new time of 8:30 pm, following the Southern Colorado Traffic Net on Sunday nights. The net is held on the 146.97 repeater, linked to the 448.45 repeater. Besides the local announcements, you can hear a news program like the Amateur Radio Newsline or the ARRL Audio News. Please join us!



IMPORTANT REMINDER

It's now January. All memberships were up for renewal at the end of the year. If you haven't already, please use the form at the bottom of this page, fill out all of the appropriate information (so that the Membership Committee can update the records) and send it (or bring it to the meeting) along with a check for the appropriate amount. The Treasurer will probably be at the January meeting to accept your renewal, or you can send the application and check off in an envelope to the club's address, listed on the application.

THANK YOU for being a member! This club exists solely for its members. We want to make ham radio the best hobby it can be, and by all means, your favorite, if not only, hobby. To this end, we need your input. We need to know what you would like the club to do; what you would like to see in the club. We will be having a suggestion box at the club meetings again (as we did a few years ago). PLEASE USE IT! Give us feedback and suggestions. Get ready to take it a step further, and help out implementing those suggestions. We have a few open positions and we're looking for a few good men and women (to borrow a phrase!).

Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc. P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521			
Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	In which activities would you like to participate?
Name: _____	Field Day <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/> Nets or round tables <input type="checkbox"/> Organize activities <input type="checkbox"/> Teach ham classes <input type="checkbox"/> Full Member \$15: <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$18: <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 \$10: <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 Family \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Ø-Beat Only \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Donation to Club: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: _____ <u>MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"</u>		
Address: _____			
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____			
Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____			
Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No E-mail: _____			
Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:			
Name: _____	Call: _____	Class: _____	ARRL? _____
Name: _____	Call: _____	Class: _____	ARRL? _____
Name: _____	Call: _____	Class: _____	ARRL? _____
Please indicate how you'd like your Ø-Beat delivered:			
(Defaults to standard hard copy in the event that NO check boxes are checked)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard hardcopy via U.S. Mail			
<input type="checkbox"/> As a PDF file attachment via e-mail, to help save a few bucks			
<input type="checkbox"/> I'll save the club a few bucks and download it from the Web!			
Circle your interests <input type="checkbox"/> HF / <input type="checkbox"/> V/UHF / <input type="checkbox"/> FM / <input type="checkbox"/> SSB / <input type="checkbox"/> Digital / <input type="checkbox"/> DX / <input type="checkbox"/> Contests / <input type="checkbox"/> Technical / <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware / <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer. Please Type or Print Clearly!			

ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND RENEWALS WILL BE PRORATED TO EXPIRE IN DECEMBER!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

73

**Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521 USA**

First Class Mail

To: